## Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 /032 W

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP, MX (MONDALE, WALTER)

SUBJECT: VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO MEXICO: STATEMENT TO

USE IN YUCATAN

REF: STATE 002093

1. THERE FOLLOWS GENERAL REMARKS THAT CAN BE USED BY THE VICE PRESIDENT DURING HIS PROPOSED VISIT TO EITHER UXMAL OR CHICHEN ITZA, THE MAYAN RUINS OF THE YUCATAN:

MR. FOREIGN SECRETARY, MR. GOVERNOR, AMBASSADOR LUCEY, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

IT IS AWESOME AND EXCITING FOR JOAN, WILLIAM AND ME TO BE STANDING IN THIS IMPORTANT AND BEAUTIFUL CENTER OF THE GREAT MAYAN CULTURE. WE HAVE HEARD AND READ ABOUT ITS BEAUTY, BUT THE MASTERFUL CREATIONS OF THE MAYAN PEOPLE FROM A THOUSAND YEARS AGO MUST BE SEEN TO BE APPRECIATED. AS WE LOOK FOR SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEMS OF MODERN URBAN SOCIETY, BOTH MEXICANS AND AMERICANS CAN LEARN MUCH FROM THE GRACE, ORGANIZATION, AND INGENUITY FOUND IN THESE ANCIENT CITIES.

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IT IS A PLEASURE TO SEE SO MANY OF MY COUNTRYMEN AMONG THE VISITORS HERE AT ------. WITH OUR HISTORICAL EUROPEAN ORIENTATION, WE AMERICANS HAVE BEEN SADLY UNEDUCATED IN THE HISTORY OF THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF OUR OWN HEMISPHERE RELATIVELY FEW AMERICANS HAVE BEEN AWARE UNTIL RECENTLY OF THE GREAT ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THE ARTS AND SCIENCES OF THE MAYAN PEOPLE, BUT THE CURRENT TREND IS TO INCREASE OUR

KNOWLEDGE AND APPRECIATION. I TRUST THAT TREND WILL CONTINUE. THE INCREASINGLY ACTIVE ROLE IN THE U. S. SOCIETY OF OUR MEXICAN-AMERICAN CITIZENS IS UNDOUBTEDLY AWAKENING GREATER AWARENESS ON THE PART OF ALL AMERICANS OF THE HISTORY OF MEXICO.

HOWEVER, IT IS TOURISM, REPRESENTED BY THE HUNDREDS OF TRAVELLERS HERE TODAY, THAT BEST SERVES TO EDUCATE PEOPLE ABOUT THE WONDERS OF OTHER CULTURES, I KNOW THAT TOURISM IS IMPORTANT TO MEXICO. LAST YEAR OVER 2,700,000 AMERICANS CROSSED THE BORDER TO VISIT MEXICO. WHILE ABOUT TWO MILLION MEXICANS CAME NORTH TO VISIT US. THESE TOURISTS BRING FOREIGN EXCHANGE, PURCHASE GOODS, AND HELP CREATE EMPLOYMENT. BUT ABOVE AND BEYOND THESE TANGIBLE GOODS, TOURISM BENEFITS BOTH NATIONS BY HELPING OUR CITIZENS TO LEARN ABOUT EACH OTHER AND TO DESTROY THE STEREOTYPE IMAGES THAT HAMPER MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING. IN DEMOCRACIES SUCH AS MEXICO AND THE U.S., FOREIGN POLICY IS NOT MADE IN A VACUUM. A SOUND FOREIGN POLICY MUST BE ROOTED IN THE ATTITUDES AND BELIEFS OF EACH COUNTRY'S CITIZENS. THE HIGH VOLUME OF TOURISM BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES GUARANTEES THAT OUR CITIZENS RESPECT EACH OTHERS' DIFFERENCES AND APPRECIATE OUR SIMILARITIES. THUS, THROUGH TOURISM, OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS ON THE OFFICIAL LEVEL ACQUIRE A GRASS-ROOTS FOUNDATION FROM THE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF INTER-PERSONAL CONTACTS BETWEEN OUR TWO NATIONS THAT TOURISM LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REPRESENTS.

THEREFORE, I AM DOUBLY GLAD TO BE HERE TODAY, TO APPRECIATE THE GLORIES OF A PAST CIVILIZATION AND TO WITNESS A LIVING EXAMPLE OF THE FREE EXCHANGE OF PEOPLES - ONE OF THE SOUNDEST BASES FOR TRUE PEACE BETWEEN NATIONS. IF I SAID MORE, I WOULD BE KEEPING BOTH OF US FROM WHAT WE CAME HERE FOR - TO LOOK, TO UNDERSTAND, AND TO WONDER.

2. REMARKS FOR USE RE: CIMMYT WILL FOLLOW WHEN NATURE OF THE MEETING BETWEEN VICE PRESIDENT AND CIMMYT OFFICIALS IS CLARIFIED. LUCEY

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## Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 jan 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

**Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED** 

Concepts: n/a Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 10 jan 1978 Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014 Disposition Event: Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MEXICO00378
Document Source: CORE

**Document Unique ID: 00** Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A

**Expiration:** 

Film Number: D780013-1196

Format: TEL From: MEXICO

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780181/aaaacqhe.tel

Line Count: 106 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 58adeae4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION ARA

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a

Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Reference: 78 STĂTE 2093

Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags:

Review Date: 05 may 2005 Review Event: Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: N/A Review Release Event: n/a

Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a SAS ID: 3801734 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

**Review Transfer Date:** 

Subject: VICE PRESIDENT\'S VISIT TO MEXICO: STATEMENT TO USE IN YUCATAN

TAGS: OVIP, MX, (MONDALE, WALTER)

To: STATE Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/58adeae4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

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